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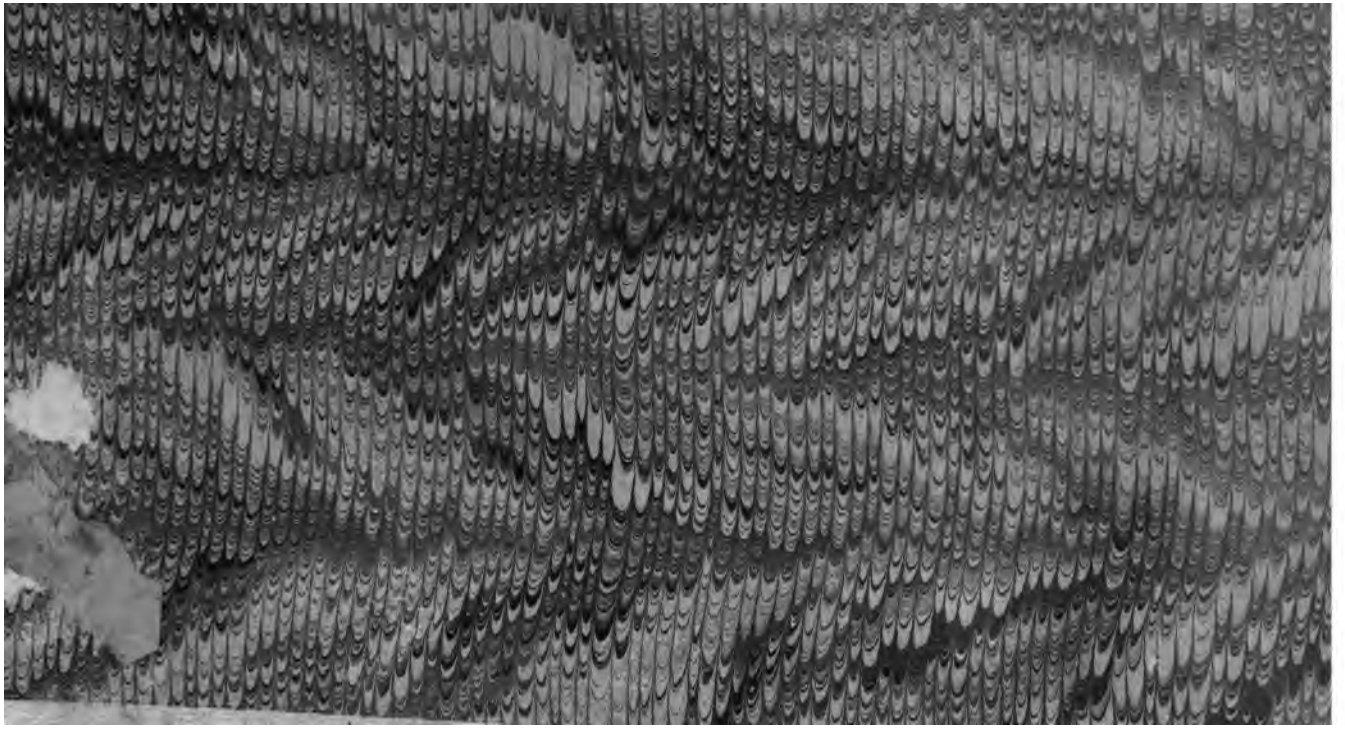
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Received April 2, 1907.



ESSAYES AND CHARACTERS

OF A

PRISON AND PRISONERS.

Woodcut by Bewick

ESSAYES

AND

CHARACTERS

OF A

PRISON AND PRISONERS.

BY

GEFFRAY MYNSHUL,

OF GRAYES-INN, GENT.



EDINBURGH:

REPRINTED FOR W. AND C. TAIT,

By James Ballantyne and Co.

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A PRISON IS A HOUSE OF CARE,
A PLACE WHERE NONE CAN THRIVE,
A TOUCHSTONE TRUE TO TRY A FRIEND,
A GRAVE FOR ONE ALIVE.
SOMETIMES A PLACE OF RIGHT,
SOMETIMES A PLACE OF WRONG,
SOMETIMES A PLACE OF ROGUES AND THIEV
AND HONEST MEN AMONG.

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NOTICE.



THE *Essayes and Characters of a Prison* were originally published in 1618, in a small quarto volume. A second edition was printed in 1638, *with some new additions*, according to the information of the title-page. This notice appears to have been a mere device of the publisher to secure the sale of his book, because the contents of the two editions are precisely the same.* Both are now extremely rare.

* Earle's Microcosmography, Ed. 1811, p. 273.

The personal history of the author is altogether unknown. A Dedication, however, to *his most loving and ever respective kind uncle, Mr Mathew Mainwaring of Namptwich, in Chesshire,*† suggests the county of which we may reasonably presume Mynshul to have been a native, and this again affords a clue for ascertaining the family from which, in all probability, he must have been descended.

There appear to have been originally two distinguished families in Chesshire of the name of Mynshul, or Minshull, according to a more usual orthography. The

† The Mainwarings were a considerable family in Nantwich, and its neighbourhood. *Leycester's* Hist. Antiq. p. 186. *King's Vale Royal of England*, p. 57.

Minshulls of Minshull dwelt on the west, and the Minshulls of Erdswick on the east of the river Weever, a few miles north of Nantwich. Although Erdswick is represented to have been *an ancient inheritance, with a fair house and domain,** its possessors resided principally, from an early period, at Sand in Staffordshire. The residence of the Minshulls of Minshull, was at the Hall of Minshull, on the Weever, *a very ancient seat, which hath continued the successions of a worshipful race in its own name ;*† and from this family there is reason to suppose the author of the *Essayes* was descended.‡

* King's Vale Royal, p. 74.
† Vale Royal, p. 74.
‡ Earle's Microcosmography, p. 273.

In 1616, when the materials were prepared by Smith and Webb, which, in 1656, were published by King, under the title of the Vale Royal of England, the Hall of Minshull was possessed by John Minshull, a person of *gentlemanly parts.** At the same period, *Geffery Minshull* is mentioned among the knights, esquires, gentlemen, and freeholders of the County Palatine of Chester, residing in the Hundred of Nantwich, and, from the place assigned to him in the list, we may presume this person to have been a cadet of the family of Minshull Hall. It is more than probable, too, that he was the author of the *Essayes and Characters of a Prison.*†

* Vale Royal, p. 74.

† In the Church of St Mary at Nant-

Geffray Mynshul appears to have been a member of *Grayes-Inne*, but his *Essayes* give no explanation of the circumstances under which his legal pursuits were interrupted by a visit to the King's Bench Prison, from whence they are dated. Mr Bliss's conjecture, however, is sufficiently probable, that the author's extravagance and imprudence made him acquainted with the scenes which he paints with so much truth and bitterness.* His homely advice to those who are compelled to borrow, to pay as soon as they can, evidently

wich, there is a monument erected by Geoffry Minshull, to the memory of his ancestors. The arms attached to it are,—a star of eight points, issuing from between the horns of a crescent. *Hist. Account of Nantwich*, 8*vo*. 1774, *p*. 33. Earle's Microcos. p. 274.

* Earl's Microcos. p. 274.

comes from a man smarting under the difficulty of discharging debts unwisely contracted, and anxious to preserve others from similar sufferings. The character of his sorrows is sufficiently intelligible. *Creditors* with *iron hands*,—*mercilesse jaylors*, who *draw blood upon the bosomes of Christians made like themselves*, and *Prisons*, containing within them all the elements of woe, guilt, and reckless profligacy, mixed with a gaiety which is, if possible, still more appalling than the scenes of wretchedness it is intended to alleviate, are not unknown in these days,—although, perhaps, of less frequent occurrence than in the times when Mynshul was an inhabitant of the King's Bench. Prison discipline is a science still but imperfectly

understood. The progress of its improvement has been slow, and philanthropy has yet much to do, ere the anticipations of Howard can be realised.

Mynshul seems to have composed his *Essayes* as an amusement during his captivity, without any view to publication, and in the hope that some friend might find them after his death, and profit by his example. They were originally sent in manuscript to his uncle, Mr Mainwaring, of whom he speaks in terms of great affection and gratitude, and to whom he looked for assistance under his misfortunes,—*Why should I feare, since you have alwayes beene my anchor, when I have beene shipwrackt, and many times saued my poore barque when it was ready to*

split? His misery, and the gloominess of his thoughts, are not sought to be disguised. His work is brought to the font as a *Child of Sorrow.* He derives his *judgment* from *Saturne*, and his *invention* from the *night-bird.* He writes with a quill taken from the *raven's wing*, and *dipt in the inke of misery.* The *Essayes* are such as might be expected from these materials,—severe, sarcastic, querulous, and melancholy.

Mynshul's style is quaint, but not without fancy, and his Observations upon Character are extremely acute, although their range is confined to the walls of a prison. His illustrations are pointed and classical, and his work withal lively and amusing. It will probably, however, only appear so to

those who are fond of the *olden time*, and who can be gratified by a certain degree of raciness, even where elegance and delicacy are awanting. In these qualities Mynshul's *Essayes* are certainly defective; and the reader, therefore, is guarded against disappointment by learning, in the outset, what he may expect to find in them. His repast will be composed of harsh and gloomy views of human nature, expressed in language of a similar character. But the practical lessons which Mynshul inculcates are not ill suited to days of embarrassment, and they suggest a remedy for evils such as those under which he suffered. His rule is,—borrow as little, and pay as soon as possible; for, *Vsury and*

extortion bite deep, and credit once crackt is not easily recouered, nor all creditors of one mind; for some will in pitty forbeare, and others will shew the greatest seuerity. The *miserable life in prison* is sketched with great vigour.

The *Observations of a Prison*, which compose the last Essay, are humorous, although somewhat indelicate. Without this the colouring could not have been true to nature, and any fastidious shadowing or softening must have injured the reality of the picture. The *slang* of the prison and its inmates is abundantly curious, and supplies a deficiency in the *canting* vocabularies of the day.

The Bishop of Salisbury's character of a prison, is, in many re-

spects, similar to that of Mynshul. He represents it as "the grave of the living, where they are shut up from the world and their friends; and the worms that knaw upon them their own thoughts and the jaylor. A house of meagre looks and ill smells, for lice, drink, and tobacco are the compound. Pluto's court was expressed from this fancy; and the persons are much about the same parity that is there. You may ask, as Menippus in Lucian, which is Nireus, which Thersites, which the beggar, which the knight;—for they are all suited in the same form of a kind of nasty poverty. Only to be out at elbows is in fashion here, and a great indecorum not to be threadbare."—"Mirth here is stupidity

or hard-heartedness, yet they feign it sometimes to slip melancholy, and keep off themselves from themselves, and the torment of thinking what they have been."* This accidental coincidence of thought, is not remarkable between two writers, in depicting a scene so melancholy, and of so little variety, as the interior of a prison.†

Mynshul, like some other writers, affects, in his Dedication, a character for modesty, and pretends to publish with reluctance, what was only intended for his friends.

* Microcos. p. 156, 157.

† The Appendix to Mr Bliss's edition of Earle's Microcosmography, contains an extensive and curious *Chronological List of Books of Characters*, accompanied by Extracts and Bibliographical Notices. *Mynshul's Essayes* form the seventh article in this list. p. 246-314.

There is no great want of charity in suspecting that he was somewhat *inamoured with his own piece*, and that he felt no indisposition to transmit it in print to the *worthy young gentlemen of Grayes-Inne*, as a reward for their kindness in visiting him in the *enchanted castle*, where he lay bound with *sorcerer's charmes*—or, to use language less metaphorical, in the King's Bench, where he was imprisoned for debt. The merit of the *Essayes* may atone for the vanity of their author. They are certainly illustrative of the manners, and habits of thinking of the times in which he lived, and therefore worthy of being reprinted.

The present impression is limited to one hundred and fifty copies for sale. The edition of

Notice.

.6 has been followed in cor-
.cting the press, and a fac-simile
of its title is given, containing
a wood-cut, by Bewick, of a Gaol-
er in the *insignia* of his office.
The arms of the family of Min-
shull of Minshull, have also been
engraved from the Vale Royal, as
a vignette for the title-page.

May 12, 1821.

ESSAYES ANI
CHARACTERS
OF A *PRISON* AND
PRISONERS.

Written by G. M. of *Grayes-Inne*, Gent.



Hee's a true Jaylor, frips the Diuell in ill.

nted at LONDON for *Mathew Walbancke*, and are to be ſol
his Shops at the New and Old Gate of Grayes-Inne, 1618



TO THE MOST WORTHY

Young Gentlemen (my noble viſitants) of Grayes-Inne.



ORTHY Friends, (and nobleſt ſociety of Gentlemen) do not think that with Pigmalion, *I am inamoured with my owne Piece, in that once more I waſh ouer the picture which was drawne but the Tearme going before; for neither the colours laid on then nor theſe now, are worthy to bee preferred to eyes ſo iudicious, as yours are; I come now not to re-ſing, but to re-cant the errours both of my pen and iudgment, ſo raſhly to thruſt my ſelfe into a printer's preſſe, though againſt my will:* Ad prœlum quaſi ad prœlium. *I undertooke a warre, when I aduen-*

tyred to ſpeake in print, (not in print as Puritan's ruffes are ſet) but to haue the criticall fingers of euery mewing cenſure to fillip mee as I lye on a ſtationer's ſtall: for ten thouſand bullets haue bene ſpitefully ſhot at me for that one poore paper bullet of which I ſhot vp and downe Fleeteſtreet. Carpes haue bin good cheap this Lent, for I haue had more then I deſired for nothing, ſome being ſent from the table of Jaylors, who hauing no great appetite, (though inſatiable mawes of themſelves) to other meates, did their beſt to whet their ſtomackes vpon me, but they ſhall ſooner finde me to be a choak-peare in going downe, then a gudgeon, eaſily to be deuoured, eſpecially by their ſore throats. Such teeth may bite me, but ſhal not draw blood of me. I make an apologie to none but to you, (moſt worthy to bee by me reſpected) what others thinke I care not, ſo you taxe not my weaknes; ſigne you my pardon, and I weigh not who elſe condemnes me. I haue now put my name to my Book, (without tergeuer-

ſation or turne coating the letters,) not that I feared to dare ſo much before, but my loue ayming onely to hit your fauors, I know my meaning could not lye hidden to you, for your ſakes eſpecially (noble Friends) who haue beene louing viſitants to me in this inchanted Caſtle, where I lye bound with ſorcerer's charmes, before did, and I doe now with whole miriads of thanks, ſend theſe papers full of my loue, in retribution of your ſingular expreſſion beſtowed vpon me. And ſo not doubting of a continuation of your good thoughts towards me, I commend my ſelfe not onely to you, whose perſonall embracements haue added heate to my affection, but to all the reſt of my fellow-ſtudents incorporated into your moſt worthy ſociety.

Your's in the higheſt degree of friendſhip to be commanded,

G. M.

From the King's Bench Priſon, in Southwark, this 6. of June, *Anno. Dom.* 1618.

TO HIS MOST LOVING AND EVER RESPECTIVE KIND Vncle, Mr MATHEW MAINWARING, of Namptvich, in Chesſhire.

SINCE my comming into this Priſon, what with the ſtrangeneſſe of the place, and ſtrictneſse of my liberty, I am ſo tranſported that I could not follow that ſtudy wherein I tooke great delight and chiefe pleaſure, and to ſpend my time idley would but adde more diſcontentments, to my troubled breſt; and being in this *Chaos* of diſcontentments, fantaſies muſt ariſe, which will bring forth the fruits of an idle braine, for *e malis minimum*. It is farre better to giue ſome

accompt of time, though to little purpoſe, then none at all. To which end I gathered a handfull of Eſſayes, and few Characters of ſuch things as by my owne experience I could ſay, *Probatum eſt:* not that thereby I ſhould either pleaſe the reader, or ſhew exquiſitenes of inuention, or curious ſtile; ſeeing what I write of is but the Child of ſorrow, bred by diſcontentments, and nouriſht vp with misfortunes, to whoſe help melancholly *Saturne* gaue his judgement, the night-bird her inuention, and the ominous *Rauen* brought a quill taken from his owne wing, dipt in the inke of miſery, as chiefe ayders in this architect of ſorrow.

This Child is borne and brought to the Font, all things ready, onely there wants a patron. *Hoc difficillimum eſt:* For who will defend ſorrow and miſery? Who will giue him entertainment? Who will countenance this worke the author being miſera-

ble? Who will reſpect the matter, the man being an abject? Who will cheriſh the circumſtance when the ſubſtance is almoſt periſhed? Surely *non in his diebus*, for friendſhip is baniſhed, loue extinguiſhed, naturall affection gone to trauell, gold is dearer then a friend, treaſure is nearer then a kinſman, and Mammon better beloued then a ſonne. Yet in this famine of true friends, I will venter vpon you (moſt louing vncle) as a God-father to this my firſt-borne, though in miſery. I can haue but a denyall, which if you doe, it muſt die in obliuion. But why ſhould I feare, ſince you haue alwayes beene my anchor when I haue been ſhipwrackt, and many times ſaued my poore barque when it was ready to ſplit? Why then ſhould I doubt of your friendly patronage, which haue neuer fayled me? Be bold then, and goe thy way, thou ſhalt be entertained, though not for any worth which

is in thee, yet in reſpect thou doſt but ſhow a willing heart, and doſt endeauour to expell ingratitude, a thing moſt odious not onely to man but God, not to Chriſtians but heathens, not to heathens but beaſts.

What then ſhould I giue to you for all your kindneſſes which you haue continually beſtowed vpon mee, which are ſo many, that if I ſhould endeauour to recite (*Ante diem clauſo componet veſper Olympo,*) but to ſhew my willingnes to my power, though I am not able to requite (for *vltra poſſe non eſt eſſe,*) doe offer vp vnto the oracle of your loue the ſacrifice of a louing heart, hoping that what is amiſſe you will impute it to the ſlendernes of my judgement, and the dulnes of my braine, which this place hath made worſe, (and not to the leaſt defect of good will,) and that you would let none but yourſelf ſee my imperfections, which are ſufficiently diuulged by mine owne

actions, and would bee vnwilling to haue a ſecond edition of them by my writing. This was the cheefeſt cauſe I tooke this in hand; another was becauſe that happily ſome friend of mine (*poſt mea funera,*) by accident may find this paper and read them, and by my example, say, *Fœlix ſum, quem pericula hujus Authoris faciunt me cautum,* for *qui ante non cauet poſt dolebit,* and that they may be afraid to enter into debt any farther then neceſſity vrgeth, and if they bee forced to borrow, to pay as ſoone as they can, for vsury and extortion bite deepe, and credit once crackt is not eaſily recouered, nor all creditors of one mind, for ſome will in pitty forbeare, and others will ſhew the greateſt ſeuerity. So hoping you will accept *non donum ſed animum,* I reſt this 27. of *January, Anno* 1617.

From the King's-Bench Priſon in *Southwarke,*

Your ever-louing Nephew,

GEFFRAY MYNSHVL.

TO THE COVRTEOVS READER.



OVRTEOVS READER, only to baniſh melancholly, and to wade through tedious time, tedious in reſpect of this place, I gathered a few Eſſayes and Characters, with an intent not to haue them ſeene of any, but to him to whom they were ſent, being one that I might truely ground a certainty of, who would excuſe my imperfections, and judge charitably of my ſlenderneſſe of judgement; this coppy by accident came to ſome of my friends hands, who hauing peruſed it, wiſhed me to put it in print, which I altogether refuſed, becauſe I would not preſume of my own judgement, or dare to venter to put my ſelfe to the cenſure of ſo many vnderſtanding readers, into whoſe hands it is subject to fall. Theſe perſwaſions preuailed not, intreaties were laid aſide, and I muſt

cither diuulge them, or elſe looſe their loue: This was the firſt motiue that with an vnwilling willingneſſe, cauſed me to put my booke to cenſure: Another was in reſpect ſome obdurate creditors may read it, and by reading mollifie their ſtrong hearts: The laſt reaſon, becauſe it may bee as a caueat to young gallants, to terrifie them how they run in debt, wherein they may know that impriſonment is of all miſeries moſt lamentable.

So hoping that the iudicious will with fauourable cenſure mitigate my many imperfections, and the other iudge fauourably of my intention, which if it take well, is better then I can expect, if otherwiſe they do not injury me in giuing deſert his reward.

ESSAYES OF A PRISON.



TO what end or purpoſe ſhould I intreat helpe of the Muſes, for the aide of inuention; or *Ciceró* to adorne my phraſe with eloquence; or *Horace's* deepe judgment, to write judiciously; or implore ayde of *Martial*, to ſpeake myſtically; or *Virgil's* heroicke ſtile, to pleaſe the hearers, ſince what I write is nothing but of ſorrow; the ſubject but diſcontentment, and the whole matter but an index of many miſeries; and therefore my phraſe ſhall be altogether

vnpoliſhed, being the ſeruant of my more dull apprehenſion.

Vade, ſed incultus, qualem decet exulis eſse,
Infœlix habitum temporis huius habe.

My purpoſe is, with dim water-colours to line me out a heart, yea ſuch a heart, ſo diſcontented and oppreſſed, that I need not be curious in fitting euery colour to his place, or to chuſe the pleaſanteſt chamber to draw it in, becauſe in it I am to lay downe the bounds of thoſe tempeſtuous ſeas, in which tenne thousands are euery day toſſed, if not ouerwhelmed, which is ſo vſuall here amongſt vs, that euery one is arts master in this workmanſhip, and euery minute ſomething or other is ſtill added to this diſtreſſed picture, whoſe ponderous waight is so great, that the frame is ſcarce able to beare the *effigies*.

My trauels hither to this infernall iland hath been but a short voyage,

and my abode here as yet but few moneths, but it ſeemes longer to mee then an Eaſt-Indian voyage, and I am ſure farre more dangerous: for if from the Indies of ſixty men twenty come home ſafe it is well; but in this, if eighty of an hundred be not caſt ouer board it is a wonder.

Being once arriued, no starre of comfort here can be ſeene to ſayle by, no hauen of happineſſe neare, no anchor of hope to caſt out, top-ſayle, fore-ſayle, ſprit-ſayle, mizen, maine ſheate, bollings, and drablers are all torne by the windes, and the barke it ſelfe ſo weather beaten, that there is few can come neare to touch at the Cape of *Bona Speranza.* *Loci incommoditas.*

Being once arriued at, all are not onely ſtaid, but the inchantments are ſo ſtrong, that it transformeth all that come thither. Firſt, the greateſt courages are here wracked, the faireſt reuenues doe here come aground; it maketh a wiſe man to loſe his wits,

a foole to know himſelfe, it turnes a rich man into a begger, and leaues a poore man deſperate; he whom neyther ſnowes nor Alpes can vanquiſh, but hath a heart as conſtant as *Hannibal*, him can the miſeries of a priſon ouercome.

The Character of a Priſon.

A priſon is a graue to bury men aliue, and a place wherein a man for halfe a yeares experience may learne more law, then hee can at *Weſtminſter* for an hundred pound.

It is a *Microcoſmus*, a little world of woe, it is a map of miſery, it is a place that will learne a young man more villany, if he be apt to take it, in one halfe yeare, then he can learne at twenty dicing-houses, bowling-allies, brothell-houses or ordinaries; and an old man more policie then if he had been pupil to *Machiauel*.

It is a place that hath more diſeaſes predominant in it, then the Peſt-

houſe in the plague-time, and it ſtinkes more then the Lord-Mayor's dogge-houſe or Paris-garden in Auguſt.

It is a little commonwealth although little wealth be common there; it is a deſart, where deſert lyes hoodwinckt; it is a famous citie wherein are all trades, for here lies the Alchymiſt that can rather make *ex auro non aurum*, then *ex non auro aurum*.

It is as intricate a place as *Roſamond's* Labyrinth, and it is ſo full of blinde meanders, and crooked turnings, that it is vnpoſſible to finde the way out, except he be directed by a ſiluer clue, and can neuer ouercome the *Minotaure* without a golden ball to worke his owne ſafety.

It is as Innes of Court; for herein Lawyers inhabit, that haue crochets to free other men, yet all their quirks and quiddities cannot enfranchize themſelues.

It is the Doctors-Commons, where ſkilfull Phyſitians frequent, who like

Æſculapius, can cure other mens diſeaſes, yet cannot quinteſſence out of all their vegetals and minerals, a balſamum or elyxir to make a ſoueraigne plaiſter to heale the ſurfet the Mace hath giuen them.

It is the Chyrurgions Hall, where many rare artiſts liue, that can ſearch other men's wounds, yet cannot heale the wound the Serjeant hath giuen them.

It is your Bankrupt's banquetting-houſe, where he ſits feaſting with the ſweet meates borrowed from other men's tables, hauing a voluntary diſpoſition neuer to repay them againe.

It is your Prodigal's *vltimum refugium*, wherein he may ſee himſelfe as in a glaſſe, what his exceſſe hath brought him to; and leſt he ſhould ſurfet, comes hither to phyſicke himſelfe with moderate dyet, and leaſt that his bed of downe ſhould breed too many diſeaſes, comes hither to

change his bed, where he is ſcarce able to lye downe.

It is a purgatory which doth afflict a man with more miſeries then euer he reaped pleaſures.

It is a Pilgrimage to extenuate ſinnes, and abſolue offences; for here be ſeminaries and maſſe-prieſts, which doe take downe the pride of their fleſh more then a voyage to the Holy Land, or a hayre ſhirt in Lent.

It is an exile which doth baniſh a man from all contentments, wherein his actions doe ſo terrifie him, that it makes a man grow deſperate.

To conclude, what is it not? In a word, it is the very idea of all miſery and torments; it conuerts joy into ſorrow, riches into pouertie, and eaſe into diſcontentments.

Of Priſoners.

I could wiſh that euery one that comes to priſon, ſhould not be diſmayed, but carry it out brauely and

with reſolution, and to conſider that no miſery in this world is endleſſe. After ſtormes calmes will ariſe, and though ſorrow be ouer night, yet joy will come in the morning; and, to ſay as *Cæſar* did to the pilot that carryed him when hee was afraid; quoth he, *Thou carrieſt Cæſar*. So euery generous minde ought to be arm'd with reſolution to meete all ſtormes of aduerſite, and to conſider that man was borne to miſery, and therefore naturall to him.

Omnis homo miser.

But thou wilt peraduenture ſay, the name of a priſoner is loathſome to thee. Is it becauſe thou art cooped vnder locke and key? Is it becauſe thou feeleſt wants? Is it becauſe thou art barred of freedome? Is it becauſe thy friends looke ſtrangely on thee, or forſake thee? Is it becauſe thou art diſgraced and holden in ſcorne? Is it becauſe thou lodgeſt hardly, and peraduenture with an ill bed-fellow? Yet let not all theſe diſmay thee, for

hadſt thou the whole country to walke in, yet thy ſoule is ſtill impriſoned in thy corrupted body. Let not want diſcourage thee, for thy Redeemer ſuffered hunger and colde to fulfill thy wants. Let not want of freedome trouble thee, thy Saviour was fettered and manacled to enfranchiſe thee. Let not the coy lookes of thy friends diſmay thee, thy Lord was ſcorned of all men, to bring thee into fauour. Let not diſgraces moleſt thee, the King of Kings was moſt diſgraced to honour thee. Let not thy lodging, or forced chamber fellowes afflict thee, the *Pilot* of thy ſafety was lodged in a *Manger*, and made a companion for theeues. But looke into thy owne boſome, and learne but a ſhort rule, yet very difficult, viz. (*Noſce teipſum,*) and thou ſhalt find that it is not impriſonment that afflicts thee, but the euill which is in thyſelfe, makes thee ſo diſtaſtful, for hadſt thou all things at will, yet ſtill

Noſce teipſum.

thou wouldſt wiſh for more. The greateſt monarch liues not without ſome diſcontentment; and comfort thyſelfe that one day thou ſhalt be enfranchiſed, and goe to that place and manſion-houſe which is prepared for thee, where all ſcores ſhall be paid, all cares baniſhed, and all teares wiped away.

Nemo viuit contentus.

Varlets and catchpoles arreſt thee, fret not at it, if law have power to whet an axe, ſhe muſt pick out a hangman to ſtrike the mace; this doth but onely put thee in remembrance of that arreſt, which ſhall ſummon thee to appear at the Imperial Court of Heauen.

Thy actions are many and great which are againſt thee, yea, ſome of you come to a tormenting execution; grieue not at this, it doth but teach thee, that thy accounts muſt be brought againſt thee, to draw thee to a reckoning, to make thee know that thou oweſt a reckoning to Hea-

Redde rationem.

uen as well as to man, and juſtice will execute her power, not to driue thee to diſpaire, but to amendement.

Further, I perſwade myſelfe there are many priſoners whoſe reſolutions are ſo noble, that before they would yeeld to the threats of an inſulting creditour, they would cheerfully thruſt their neckes into the yoke of aduerſity, if no more veynes herein were cut but their owne; but here is none ſo poor which dyes in priſon, but the laſt gaſpe doth cracke the heart-ſtrings of a wife, children, father, mother, friends, or allies; therefore art thou bound to take pitty of thy ſelfe, and to hang out the flag of truce to thy bloody-minded creditor, and ſeeke for ranſome to pay all, ſo that thou maiſt eſcape with life, though it be vpon ſome ignoble termes, and much loſſe to thee; if none of theſe reſpects, yet for thy countrie's ſake, to whom thou art a traytor, if thou giue thy ſelfe to thine enemies hand,

Parentes et Liberi ſunt chari.

Non nobis ſed Patriæ.

when vpon parley thy peace may be made, come forth of priſon, and dye not there, that thou mayſt honour thy King, and doe ſeruice to thy countrey, and pay thy debts ſo farre as thou art able, becauſe the greateſt debt that euer thou didſt owe, was paid for thee.

Priſoners of another nature.

Bankrupts. Some there bee which haue gotten other men's goods, and ſo lye heere to defraud them; theſe, of all men, deſerue no pity or compaſſion, which tye their own hands, and make themſelues gally-ſlaues, onely to wear golden fetters; how canſt thou ſay thy prayers and expect a bleſſing ſhould bee poured on thee, that ſo willingly erreſt from the type of a juſt man, which is, *(Suum cuique attribuere.)* I will not ſpeake much of thee, becauſe it muſt be all gall: onely this in hope to amend thee, the gallowes on which the poor theefe hangeth is

Fac aliis fieri quod velis ipse tibi.

moſt fit for thee; hee robbeth one man, thou whole families: he is a felon to man onely, thou art a felon to God and man; if he kill, he doth it ſodainely, and but one, when thou with a lingring death, deſtroyeſt father, mother, children, and peraduenture many orphans left to their charge. But look to it, that although thou compound for two ſhillings, or three ſhillings in the pound, the ouerplus which thou ſo ill heſt got, will bring thy ſoule into ſuch debt, that the remainder will not pay the intereſt, to ſaue the forfeiture of thy ſoule to the diuell, which will damne thee and thy angells, with him and his angels; and thy iſſue or allies which ſhall enjoy them, ſhall neuer proſper with them.

Diuitiæ faciunt homines potentiores non meliores.

Bona male parta, male dilabuntur.

The Character of a Priſoner.

A priſoner is an impatient patient, lingring vnder the rough hands of a cruell phiſitian, his creditor hauing caſt his water knowes his diſeaſe,

and hath power to cure him, but takes more pleaſure to kill him. He is like *Tantalus*, who hath freedome running by his doore yet cannot enjoy the leaſt benefit thereof; his greateſt griefe is, that his credit was ſo good and now no better: his land is drawne within the compaſſe of a ſheepes ſkin, and his owne hand the fortification that barres him of entrance: he is fortune's toſſing-bal, an obiect that would make mirth melancholly: to his friends an abiect, and a ſubiect of nine day's wonder in euery barber's ſhop; and a mouthfull of pity (that he had no better fortune) to midwiues and talkatiue goſſips; and all the content that this tranſitory life can giue him, ſeemes but to flout him, in reſpect the reſtraint of liberty barres the true vſe. To his familiars hee is like a plague, whom they dare ſcarce come nigh for fear of infection, he is a monument ruined by thoſe which

rayſed him, hee ſpends the day with a *hei mihi, væ miſerum,* and the night with a *nullis eſt medicabilis herbis.*

Of Creditors.

A *creditor* hath two paire of hands, one of fleſh and blood, and that nature gaue him; another of iron, and that the law giues him: but the one is more predominant then the other, for mercy guids the one, and mammon the other. But if hee once conſider what hee goeth about to doe, and that it is the image of God whom hee laboureth to deface and oppreſſe with miſeries and calamities; then the ſoftneſſe of the one doth ſo operate, that it meets with the hardnes of the other, which neuer comes to paſſe, but when Grace and Mercy kiſſe Law and Juſtice; but ſuch dayes are ſeldome ſet downe in our calenders, but I perſwade myſelfe that for a ſtrange meridian is that almanacke calculated in which they are found.

Deus fecit hominem ſecundum imaginem ſuam.

I by mine owne experience (though little, yet too much to learne it heere) haue knowne of my owne knowledge a hundred creditors which haue laid their debtors in irons, as relentleſs as themſelues, and of thoſe hundred, if I ſhould adde a hundred more, I thinke I ſhould nominate but one onely, and onely one of a mercifull breſt, who did not onely grieue to ſee his debtor oppreſt with miſery, but alſo laid money out of his purſe to free him, he ſhot a ſecond arrow to find the firſt, and ſuppoſe he ſhot both away, doe you think his quiuer was the emptier? No, he ſcattered a handfull of corne, and reaped a buſhell, hee receiued treble intereſt, he gained by this new ſecurity, and ſuche as would not faile him at the day, God became his debtor, and paid him more than his accompt came to.

Ironia. Thou that art a creditor wilt not beleeue this; doe not. But in ſtead

of this man's weeping make thy debtor melt into teares, and in ſtead of his lamentation, rejoyce hee is in thy hands to vſe him cruelly, and flatter thy ſelfe in ſaying thou haſt no reaſon to looſe ſo much by him, but I will haue his body, or in perſwading thyſelfe that his friends will not let him lye for such a debt, and that thou wilt not forgiue him, but *nolens volens* wilt bee ſatisfied, or elſe he ſhall ſtarue and rot: O thou wicked man, thou neuer doſt conſider what teares thy Sauiour ſhed to free thee, and when thou waſt giuen vp to the priſon of hell, by the hands of thy cruell creditor the deuell, to be cruelly tormented, yet Chriſt paid all thy ſcores with his moſt precious blood, and how canſt thou lye downe on thy pillow, to pray to God to forgiue thee a million of debts; nay, they run into *infinitum*, which will not forgiue thy brother one debt. And when all thy friends would not re-

Homo homini lupus

deeme thee, thy Sauiour freed thee, how canſt thou do theſe things with a ſafe conſcience? Doſt thou not ſleepe on the pillow of thy owne damnation, thy prayers turn into curſings, and thou doſt but mocke him that thou prayeſt to.

Conſider what a great ſcoare thou art to pay, what an accompt thou art to make, and how thou ſhalt not eſcape if thou vſe ſuch cruelty till thou haſt paid the vttermoſt farthing, thou that art a cruell murtherer, whom the reuenge and wrongs of a wife, children, parents, and orphans, will, like the blood of *Abell*, call to heauen for vengeance on thee and thy poſterity: doe but conſider of this, and then thou wilt be affraid to torment thy brother. But imitate the Romanes, who rather builded a temple for the reliefe of thoſe which were fallen into decay and pouerty, then find a priſon to ſtarue them in, and follow *Titus Veſpatian*, who ha-

uing omitted but one day to doe iuſtice, cauſed that day to be put forth of the calender. So that day when thou ſhalt haue but a thought of tormenting thy poore brother, do but looke into thy owne conſcience, and it will make thee repent that euer thou haſt liued ſuch a day wherein thou haſt plaid the tyrant in thy heart. The rockes haue yeelded reliefe to men oppreſt, but thou more harder then they, art the cauſe of their miſery. Be thou as great a tyrant ouer thy poore debtor as *Nero* was to Rome, as cruell as *Phalaris*, as inhumane as *Lycaon*, and in the end thou doſt with theſe get a ſtaffe to breake thy owne head, and lay a ſnare which thou thy ſelfe ſhalt fall into, for though thy owne perſon eſcape, yet thy poſterity ſhall be ſure to feele the puniſhment.

Thou that vaunteſt, and wilt make dice of thy debtor's bones; be theſe the words of a man? No; of a mon-

ſter? no, but a diuell; nay, worſe then a diuell, a thing not worthy name: for theſe words thou art as infamous, as the Jews hateful for caſting of dice for our Lord's garment, that garment was but a ſenſeleſs thing, but thou caſts dice for a piece of thy Redeemer's body.

Thou takeſt with one clap of a varlet's hand, from the courtier his honour, from the lawyer his tongue, from the merchant the ſeas, from the citizen his credit, from the ſcholler his preferment, from the husbandman the earth it ſelfe, and from all men, (as much as thou maiſt,) the brightneſſe and warmth of the ſunne of heauen. In a word, if nothing will make thy ſtony heart relent, thou in being cruell to thy debtor art worſe then the hang-man; hee before he ſtrikes begs pardon, thou takeſt a pride to condemne where thou maiſt saue.

But it may be thy eſtate is ficke,

thy credit much ingaged, and to saue thy ſelfe thou art forced to doe thit. In ſo doing thou doeſt well; if another weare thy coate, and thou goeſt cold, thou maiſt plucke it from his ſhoulders. If thou art hungry and another keepes thy meate, thou maiſt take it off his table: if hee be able to cure thy wound, which for his ſake thou haſt made, thou haſt reaſon to ſeeke thy remedy; but if he which hath borrowed thy coate hath worne it out, and hath not a ragge to couer him with, wilt thou trample vpon his naked body? If with the Jew of Malta, inſtead of coyne, thou requireſt a pound of fleſh next to thy debtor's heart, wilt thou cut him in pieces? If thy debtor offer thee his bed hee lyes in, his chamber hee ſleeps in, his diſh hee drinkes in; nay, all that he hath, ſo that he leaues himſelfe, wife, and children as naked as they came into the world, wilt thou for all this ſuffer him to

lye in priſon? If thou be merciful to thy debtor that cannot pay thee, alas, what is it? No more then if thou ſhouldeſt lift vp the head of a ſicke man vpon his pillow to eaſe him, he may recouer and doe as much for thee. In priſon pouerty is made beggery, and ſo thereby thou doſt not onely vndoe thy debtor, but looſe all; therefore be merciful and pitifull, and thou ſhalt not loſe thy reward.

Parricides.

Lycurgus being aſkt why hee made no law for parricides, he anſwered, becauſe he thought there were none ſo vnnaturall: ſo if I ſhould haue ſtudied all the dayes of my life, and that my yeares ſhould be doubled, I ſhould neuer have imagined either to haue inuented, or to haue been an eye-witneſſe of ſuch vnnaturalneſſe as is here exemplary; as the ſonne who being bound for his father, to free himſelfe hath laid his father vp

in cloſe priſon, and here hath detayned him ſeauen yeares, neuer yeelding to any compoſition, but his poore father liues at his mercileſſe mercy; and againe, the father ſuffers his ſonne to be impriſoned for his owne debt at his owne ſuite; ſurely a thing ſo abhord, that I tremble to write it, and none can reade it without bluſhing.

What will this world come to, when the mammon of this world ſhall ſet father againſt ſonne, ſonne againſt father, and make them more mercileſſe then *tygers*, and more vnnaturall then beaſts: for a beaſt forſakes not his own, but man reſpecteth gold before his friend, and the father coyne before the ſonne of his body, fleſh of his fleſh. And the ſonne, the God of this world before his father, which gaue him life and being, whom hee ought to cheriſh, and vndergoe all troubles to eaſe him. But looke to it, both fathers

and children, leaſt in a moment the juſt judgement of God fal vpon you, and damne you and your gold together, louing it better then thoſe whom you ought to cheriſh, and the one to bee but a thing of the baſeſt eſteeme, in reſpect of the other. I could exemplifie it with hiſtories as well forraine as domeſtique, but that it is not my purpoſe, for *Ex paucis plurima concipit ingenium.*

Ex paucis dictis plurima intendere potes.

The Character of a Creditor.

A creditor is a man whoſe eſtate is wrapped vp in ſheep-ſkins, his riſing growes by his debtor's fall, his credit relies vpon his debtor's performance, and the death of a young gallant's father, is more pleaſing to him then faſting dayes to an vſurer, or death to a broker, hee growes rich onely by putting forth commodities, which immediately conuerts to diſcommodities; hee will not put out money for ten in the hundred,

for vſury is hatefull to him, but he loues extortion and makes that his *ſummum bonum*, for hee will marchandize with you, whereby he will gaine ſixty in a hundred; hee is your cities honeſt man, which is, to ſpeak the truth, more then a knaue, for a knaue that is crafty needes no broker, but he cannot liue without one. Hee is a man compoſed of all loue, and proteſting kindneſſe to pleaſure the occaſions of his gallant debtor, with his much affirmation of his reſpect, how willing hee is to doe his worſhip a pleaſure, whereby the chiefe ayme of his pleaſure is to haue a footing vpon ſome capital meſſuage, or elſe to bee fingring ſome petty lordſhip, or comely mannor, who hauing no ſooner glutted himſelfe with the rich banquet of his debtor's deere coſt, but immediately to phiſicke himſelfe, hee is at the charge of a faire hackney coach with three most absolute jades to draw him

(whether he moſt willingly is drawne) with his curious wife, and two or three of his owne conditioned neighbours, to ſee this goodly purchaſe, who prepare themſelues some fortnight beforehand, and prune themſelues vppe in their peacock's feathers, like the puppets in a Lord Mayor's pageant; and for this his great act hee is admired at amongſt his neighbours, as the owle in the day time amongſt other birds, and eſteemed of with as much reſpect as that Captaine *Pigmi* was, which was commander in that bloody warre againſt the terrible black crowes.

Similis ſimili gaudet.

A *creditor* may further be ſaid to be either *homo*, *monſtrum*, or *dæmon*. A man, when hee caſts his debtor into priſon with a determination to ſeeke his owne, not to ruine him, and if he bee not able to pay all, to take what hee can ſpare, and giue him day for the reſt, and ſo releaſe him; this man is (*homo homini Deus*)

that as he doth puniſh ſo he doth preſerue.

A monſter, when hee hath not onely extended his ſubſtance, but caſts him in priſon, and is as deafe as an adder to heare of releaſe till hee haue paid him the vttermoſt farthing.

A diuell, when he hath ruined him, doth rejoyce to ſee him fall, and in ſtead of coyne will haue his carkaſſe: But to find a creditor both *Homo et Angelus*, that will releaſe his priſoner when he is not able to pay him, and that will conſider, that *vltra poſſe non eſt eſſe*. Such a one is *Rara auis in terris*, &c.

Of Choyce of Company in Priſon.

Wouldeſt thou learne to diſpute well? Bee an excellent ſophiſter. Wouldeſt thou diſpute of forraigne affaires, and bee an excellent linguiſt? I counſell thee to trauell. Wouldeſt thou bee of a pleaſing and affectionate behauiour? Frequent the

court. Wouldeſt thou diue into the ſecret villanies of man? Lye in priſon.

Via periculosa. Take heed when thou entreſt into this wilderneſſe of wilde beaſts, what path thou takeſt, ſome guide is neceſſary, or elſe vnawares thou wilt with the Romane Emperour's ſteward fal into a pit, where cruel deuouring beaſts are intrapped, which will ruine thee.

Society is the ſtring at which the life of man hangeth, without which is no muſicke, two in this maſke is but a vnion; *Adam* had his *Eue*, and euery ſonne of *Adam* hath his brother whom he loues.

No chariot runs with one wheele, two makes it ſteddy, a third is ſuperfluous, foure too cumberſome: thou muſt chooſe one and but one, who walkes alone is lame.

Men of all conditions are forced into priſon, as all riuers run into the ſea; therefore it is good to bee fami-

liar with all, acquainted with few, and if with any, *eandem cantilenam cano*, but with one, make triall what the veſſell will hold, before thou powre thy ſelfe into him; and be wary what thou ſayeſt or doeſt, for thou ſhalt haue the eyes of enuy, not of reproofe, which will looke vpon thee, to malice thee if thou doeſt well, and if thou deny to follow them in their humors, and to dance after their owne pipe, thou ſhalt be more emulated then the boy was of the two ladies when he preferred *Venus* before in giuing her the golden ball; and if by accident thou doſt any thing amiſſe, as *humanum eſt errare*, thou ſhalt bee more vilified, and with inueterate mallice more profecuted to disgrace thee, then the Pariſiens did the Hugonites.

Bee wary, therefore, of thy company, for to bee a bowle for euery alley, and run into euery company, proues thy mind to haue no bias.

Thy comming into priſon, is like a traueller comming into ſtrange countries, who takes vp ſeuerall lodgings, hath many welcomes, but they are not to him, but to his money.

If thou wilt dwell with thy ſelfe, bee not giddy, but compoſed; for hee that is euery where is no where, therefore bee wary whom thou ſelecteſt, for heere bee of all ſorts, for thou ſhalt as well find a flattering *Gnatho*, as a diſſembling *Sinon*; and if thou haue ſtore of crownes, then ſhalt thou bee ſure to bee humored, and be beloued with outward reſpects; and then they will counſell and aduiſe thee, with proteſtations of their loue, but looke to ſuch, whoſe counſell to heare and not imbrace, will not hurt, but may much improue thee; but, if once taken, it will operate as the apple which *Valentine*, Dutcheſſe of Orleans caſt to the young Princes, which, once taſted, will ſo poyſon

thee with corruption, that thou art vncurable.

Further, heere bee vaine-glorious and talkatiue-headed fooles, ſuch will more trouble thee then any action of debt which is laid on thee; heere bee common drunkards, which lie heauier on thee then an execution.

But if thou ſuffer a man to lye long in thy boſome, albeit his conditions bee full of flawes, yet labour to peece and ſeame vp his vices, rather then to caſt him off, leaſt that it call thine owne judgement in queſtion.

All men haue imperfections, and, being in priſon, wee muſt not look to haue them ſtarres; this place is no *orbe* for ſuch conſtellations. *Humanum est errare.*

Let not thy companion be a miſerable baſe-minded fellow, for then niggardlineſſe will hold her fingers on thy purſe-ſtrings; let him not be a prodigall, for then he will draw thee to riot; if adulterer, to luſt; if a ſwearer, to damned oaths; if a pot-

Diuitiæ faciunt homines potentiores non meliores.

companion, to drunkenneſſe; acquaint thyſelfe, therefore, not with the moſt but beſt, not the beſt in cloaths or money, but in vertue; if there bee none ſuch in priſon, then keepe company with thy ſelfe; in thy chamber keepe company with *Plutarke*, and *Seneca*, *Perkins*, and *Greenham*; the one will teach thee to liue well, the other to dye well.

Cum bonis bonus.

The Character of Companions in Priſon.

Quot homines tot ſententiæ.

All companies are not alike, neither is there an vnion in their diſpoſitions. I will therfore touch but three kinds of perſons, which thou ſhalt bee ſure to find in priſon, viz.

1. *A Paraſite.*
2. *A John indifferent.*
3. *A True-harted Titus.*

The firſt loueth thee better for thy meanes then merit, thy ſubſtance then thyſelfe, who will rip open thy boſome to thy enemie; and when thy money begins to ſinke, will flye from thee, and will bee the firſt that will diſgrace thee. He is like a whore, who will no longer faune then thou wilt feed him. He is a trencher raſcall, which will more hate thee when thou leaueſt to releeue him, then euer hee did ſeeme to loue thee.

The ſecond is one that will flatter thee, and will neither abſolutely loue thee nor hate thee, but, when preſent, will bee with thee, when abſent, againſt thee; hee is *hic et vbique*, heere and euery where, and, in very truth, hee is no where.

The laſt of theſe thou maiſt call the maſculine ſweet heart, which may be reſembled to truth, whoſe boſome is always bare, and hath a breaſt of chryſtall, that thou maiſt looke through his body to his heart; hee

is one that will loue thee in aduerſitie, he will reſpect thee in the kitchin, as well as in the parlour, hee will reuerence thee in the Hole as well as in the Maſter's ſide, hee will looke on thee in rags, as well as in robes, and will acknowledge thee in fetters as well as in a feather-bed: Come ſtormes, come calmes, come tempeſts, come ſun-ſhine, come what can come, he will be thine, and ſticke to thee.

Verus amicus optimus theſaurus.

Of Viſitants in Priſon.

Nullus ad amiſſas ibit amicus opes.

From a ruinous houſe euery man flyes: they that are abroad aſke euery day how thou doeſt; when in priſon they proteſt they are ſorry for thy misfortunes, but neuer come to thee: ſuch are like idle paſſengers preſſing about a barber's ſhop, when a man is carryed in wounded, who will peepe in and climbe about the windowes,

but dare not enter into the ſhop for feare they ſhould fall into a ſwoond to ſee him dreſt. A priſoner is as much beholding to ſuch leape-frogge acquaintance, as a man ſhaken with an ague to euery goſſipping woman hee meetes, who will teach him an hundred medicines, and not one worth taking.

But if thy abilitie be ſuch that thou workeſt thy libertie, then thou ſhalt haue as many hands imbracing thee as *Centimanus* had; much wine with little loue beſtowed vpon thee, with oaths infinite, that they were comming forty times to see thee; but this or that occaſion hindred them, when indeed they were afraid thou ſhouldeſt haue had occaſion to vſe them: and they had purpoſed to haue come this day, but they are happy that thy ſo much deſired liberty hath preuented them; to ſuch giue no credit, onely ſalute them with a *ſalue* and a *vale*.

Others will come to thee with

weeping and ſighing to cheare thee vp, ſuch are like Robin-red-breaſts, that bring ſtrawes in their charitable bils to couer the dead.

Others will promiſe to lend thee money, but try them before thou haue occaſion to vſe them, which if they deny thee when thou art at liberty, be then vnto them as a ſhadow. But true friends in a priſon, are like ſtrawberries in a barren country, that one can hardly get a handfull of them in a whole yeare; nay, they are like your roſes here in Chriſtmas, a thouſand to one if in an age one be found, ſo in priſon it is a great ods, if of a thouſand kinſmen, allies, and acquaintance, I finde but one true friend.

Donec eris fœlix multos numerabis amicos,
Tempora si fuerint nubila, ſolus eris.

But, if in this great dearth of friends wherein wee liue, vnder what fortunate planet may I judge my ſelfe to

be borne, and that the conſtellations of the ſtarres haue much fauoured mee, that amongſt all my fleſh and blood, I haue found one true *Damon* or faithfull *Pylades*, and amongſt all my acquaintance, haue found ſome faithfull, and more conſtant in their loue and reſpect to me in this place, then when I was at liberty, they did make ſhew of. Such maſts that ſo ſaue me in ſuch wracks, I muſt euer loue; with ſuch dolphins, in all my dangers, let me euer meete.

The Character of Viſitants.

Viſitants are men, for the moſt part, compoſed all of proteſting promiſes, and little or no performance; they are like your almanacks, which, when they prognoſticate faire weather, it is a million to a mite if it proue not contrary: they are like the German clocks, which ſeldome goe right; their tongues run faſter then the clocke on Shroue-Tueſday,

the piſſing conduit in Cheapſide, or an Iriſh man's paire of heeles when hee runnes on a wager. They will tyre thine eares more in one howre with their loud proteſtations, then a ſcholler, citizen, or taylor will a hackney horſe in halfe a dayes riding, but, in performance, will bee as ſlow as a ſnayle in her pace; and when thy meſſenger comes to them for money, then they will bee ſure to haue the ſtrangullion or cholick, that they cannot ſpeake, and looke as ruſtily on thy meſſenger, as a lawyer will on his clyent, which ſueth vnder *forma pauperis;* your letters as acceptable as water into a ſhippe, the King's priuie ſeale to an vſurer, a ſubpœna to a country gentleman, or a catchpole amongſt the friendly ſociety of gallants.

They are like the rings and chaines bought at S. Martines, that weare faire for a little time, but ſhortly after will proue alchimy, or rather pure copper.

Laſtly, They are like the apples which grow on the bankes of *Gomorrah*, they haue crimſon and beautifull rindes, but when they come to gather them, they crumble all to duſt.

Of Entertainment in Priſon.

As ſoone as thou commeſt before the gate of the priſon, doe but thinke thou art entring into Hell, and it will extenuate ſomewhat of thy miſery, for thou ſhalt be ſure not only to find hell, but fiends and vgly monſters, which with continuall torments will afflict thee; for at the gate there ſtands *Cerberus*, a man in ſhew, but a dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne vpon thee, bidding thee welcome, in reſpect of the golden cruſt which hee muſt haue caſt him; then hee opens the doore with all gentlenes, ſhewing thee the way to miſery is very facile, and being once in, hee ſhuts it with ſuch

fury that it makes the foundation ſhake and the doore and windowes ſo barricadoed, that a man ſo looſeth himſelfe with admiration, that hee can hardly finde the way out and be a ſound man. Now for the moſt part your porter is either ſome broken cittizen,who hath plaid Jack-of-all-trades, ſome pander, broker, or hangman, that hath plaid the knaue with all men, and for the more certainty his embleme is a red beard, to which ſacke hath made his noſe couſin german.

No ſooner ſhall a man paſſe this fury, but hee is conducted to little eaſe his chamber, where hee no ſooner hath entred, but (hard vſage) his chamberlaine ſalutes him, and proteſts hee hath lodged thee with as honeſt a man as himſelfe, when as in truth a paire of ſheres cannot part the knaue betwixt them, and proteſteth thou ſhalt haue a cleane paire of ſheetes, and of the beſt, who

hauing no ſooner fingered thy coyne, but ſends thee a paire of ſheets, fitter for a horſe then a man, who hauing plaid the jade ſo with thee, then leaues thee. Hee no ſooner departs, but Thredbare and Monileſſe thy chamber-fellowes come vpon thee for a garniſh, which if thou deny them or haſt no money, then *exit* cloake from thy ſhoulders, and enter two douſen of pots, and one douſen of pipes; this is the pillow which ſhall be giuen thee to ſleepe on the firſt night: now thou muſt bee ſaluted in the morning, or elſe peraduenture thou wilt thinke thyſelfe not welcome.

In the morning at thy vpriſing, *(Pothearbe)* the Gardiner appeares in his likeneſſe and hee will haue *vnguentum aureum*, for the narrow path thou haſt to walke in.

Then to whet on thy ſtomach to dinner comes *(Cut-throat)* the Steward for his crowne, who profeſ-

ſeth much kindneſſe hee will ſhew thee, for thou haſt bound him with thy courteſie, to cousen thee, not onely in thy meat but money.

Next after this comes (Miſtreſſe *Mutton-chops*) the head Cooke, who proteſteth thou ſhalt command her, who hauing no ſooner greaſed her fingers with thy ſiluer, but euer after ſhee will haue a hand in thy diſh, doe what thou canſt to preuent it, ſo on all ſides the blood of thy purſe muſt bee poured out to maintaine such mercileſſe blood-hounds, and continuall purſe-leaches.

Theſe furies, as they haue diuers ſhapes, ſo haue they ſeuerall kindes of temptations; for after thou haſt beene ſome fortnight in priſon, they will come to thee to cheere thee, leaſt thou ſhouldſt adde melancholly to diſcontentment; and will tell thee they wiſh thee well, and thou ſhalt command them; and in their opinion the ſight of the ſtreet will much

content thee, and they will attend thee to the tauerne within the rule, where thou muſt quench their thirſt with ſacke; and what is got of thee is well got, being obtained by rule, for he that liues by rule cannot erre.

Suppoſe thou either perceiueſt theſe things by others, or by thy owne experience, and ſo refuſe this profered curteſie of theirs, purchaſed for their pleaſures at thy owne coſt. Then if at any time vpon juſt occaſion thou deſireſt it, thou muſt giue them a cup of *aurum potabile*, or elſe expect not the leaſt fauour or ſmalleſt courteſie, for no penny no pater-noſter, no gold no friendſhip.

If thou continually be offered injuries beare them patiently, or elſe thou ſhalt be laid in irons for ſatiſfaction.

If they perceiue thou art like to continue, and haſt good meanes, thou ſhalt want no content that priſon can

yeeld, but euery dram of content will coſt thee a pound of ſiluer.

When they heare thou art vpon diſcharge, then will they bee very ſorry and make all the beſt meanes that poſſibly they can to detaine thee; but if there be no remedy but thou muſt needs depart, then what with their three halfe pence a pound for action money, and three in the pound for execution, they will make ſuch a large bill which will be more vnconſcionable then a taylor's, for hee will abate of the *ſumma totalis*, but in this heere is nothing to bee abated; all their ſpeech is *legem pone*, or elſe with their ill cuſtome they will detaine thee, for thy denyall is an execution without triall by law; for notwithſtanding that amongſt juſt men, *malus vſus abolendus eſt*, heere, *conſeruandus et preſeruandus*, and ſo the entrance into priſon, the continuance

in priſon, and the diſcharge out of priſon, will be nothing but racking the heartſtrings of poore priſoners, and exhauſting the ſubſtance of the diſtreſſed, whatſoeuer their wants be, holding it for a maxime, that *ſumma iniuria eſt ſummum jus.*

Of Keepers which goe abroad with Priſoners.

Haſt thou a deſire to goe abroad, thy *Argos* which attends thee, will bee more chargeable then the Lord Mayor's gally foiſt on *Simon* and *Judes* day, or a cittizen's wife to her huſband when ſtrawberries and cherries are first cryed in the streets, and will conſume thee if thou forbeare not; thou maiſt better cheape ride on thy foot-cloth, then go abroad with thy keeper.

4 shillings *per diem cumCerere et Baccho.*

If thou walkeſt abroad with thy keeper, vſe him friendly, but not reſpectiuely; ſo manage him that he ſhall rather thinke himſelfe behold-

ing to thee then thou to him; for howſoeuer he faunes vpon thee with complements, ſtanding bare with officious attendance, yet know, he ſerues in his place but as the dog the butcher; he is to thee as a cur to a droue of beaſts; if thou goeſt on quietly (be it to thy ſlaughter among griping cittizens, and cruell creditors to worke thy own freedome) hee waites gently and brings thee to the doore, but if thou once offer to ſtray hee worries thee.

Remember his eye ſhootes at two whites, thy perſon and thy purſe; the one is to guard thee, the other to feed him; thou art compelled to protect thy carkaſe vnder his ſhelter as a ſheepe in a terrible ſtorme vnder a bryer, and be ſure thy ſtanding there is to haue ſome of thy wooll torne off.

The Character of Keepers.

Your keepers moſt commonly are

inſinuating knaues, and mercinary raſcals, wearing their maiſter's liuery, but their owne badge, which is ſlaue: in full proportion they looke like the picture of Enuy, with their hands continually diuing into poore priſoners' pockets, with their heads vncouered, ſtill profering courteſies when their harts make anſwer what kindnes they doe is *(non tibi ſed pecuniæ)* they moſt commonly feed well to their maiſter's credit, but the tabler's charge. Now if any take exception of the badge knaue which I haue giuen them, as the old prouerbe is, touch a gald horſe and he will kicke. I will maintaine what I ſay out of their owne authors, a bird of their owne neſt, yet not altogether ſo ill, who ſaid to me that he was weary of his ſlauiſh life, in reſpect he muſt bee knaue in his place; who ſaid, if hee were true to his maiſter, hee muſt be knaue to priſoners, if true to priſoners, knaue to his maiſter. So

be hee honeſt in his vocation or diſhoneſt, hee muſt be ſtill knaue; for *mala mens malus animus.*

There are aboundance of theſe ſnakes which lie lurking in this place, whoſe chiefeſt felicity is to talke of ſo many new priſoners which are committed, and are ready to faint if they but heare of releaſe, and all the dogges at Paris-garden keep not ſuch a bawling as theſe curres euery morning in the Tearme, to goe abroad with poore priſoners by rule, onely to prey and ſeize vpon their coyne, and they will not abate one penny of their extortion, though the poore priſoner faſt a week with bread and water. And they rejoyce more for a *habeas corpus* in the vacation, then the huſbandman for a plentifull harueſt, or the merchant for the ſafe landing of his ſhip.

For money, they will doe any thing, bee it neuer ſo ill, ſo thereby they may purchaſe coyne, holding it a *maxime*, that ſiluer is well gotten

if by any means obtained, and to vſe cruelty to priſoners is policy and wiſedome; becauſe now is the time or neuer, for being once infranchiſed, they will bee as wary to come in againe as the bird which hath escaped the fouler's net.

Eſſayes and Characters of Jaylors and Keepers of Priſon.

Theſe are *diuerſa*, but not *contraria*, they are all one in nature, in place onely they differ, *(nomine tantum,)* the Keeper is the roote, body, and bulke of the tree, the Jaylors are but branches, ſome ſlip off by loſſe of a priſoner, by being giuen to drunkennes or whoring, (adjuncts inſeperable to them,) or by any other debauchednes, at the pleaſure of their commander.

The Maiſter of a priſon is the *primum mobile*, in that euerlaſting motion (a jayle) and thoſe key-turners, and ſtreet-walkers, are the petty and

neceſſary ſlauiſh wheeles, which runne like horſes in milles continually; by day with their feete, quicke eyes, and obſeruing faces, by night with their feares, that doore ſhould flye open, and priſoners eſcape.

Many men (borne well, of gentle blood, and extraordinary education) forſake the calmes of their owne happy fortunes, to arriue on theſe quick-ſanded ſhores, and either by ſtrength of purſe, or free gift of great perſons, haue ſuch places of command confer'd vpon them, (I ſpeake heere of the better ſort which are the Maiſters,) yet I know not whether the peruerſe vnrulines of priſoners, with whom they are to wraſtle, or whether the fate of ſuch ſtar-croſt houſes, or what other maleuolent aſpect ſticks vpon them; I know not, I say, whether one of theſe ſingle, or all of them together, alter ſoft and noble inclinations into cruell and crooked ones, neither is my complaint or condemnation of

them generall, for I know ſome of this file, may and doe march in the rankes of men, both worthy, and full of commiſſeration towards thoſe poore people vnder their charge.

But for the ſecond ſort, which properly are jaylors indeed, they are commonly either baſe tradeſmen that haue broken, and by a little money pared off from other men's goods, buy ſuch offices; els are they lazy ſeruing men, who beeing. weary of carrying the cloake-bagge, think it a braue life to come and command as good, and ſometimes better men then their maiſters, within the ſtinking precincts of a priſon; or take the beſt choyce you can, they are but out-worne ſoldiers, but indeed for the moſt part the very off-ſcum of the raſcall multitude, as cabbage-carriers, decoyes, bum-bayliffes, diſgraced purſeuants, botchers, chandlers, and a rabble of ſuch ſtinkardly companions; with whom no man of

any reaſonable faſhion, but would ſcorne to conuerſe: but in theſe infortunate caues of miſery, where priſoners are tyed vp like dogges, and theſe are the Beare-wards, that hold no life ſweeter then to inſult ouer their betters.

Theſe are *Niobes*, children turned into ſtones, theſe are double-tongu'd monſters, who fawne vpon priſoners with flattering ſpeeches, and behinde their backs cut their throates to their maſter.

Nay, theſe turne-coates take off the very nop of their maſter's gentle diſpoſition; and when they heare him promiſe to a gentleman any fauour of going abroad, or ſpeaking to a creditor in his behalfe, one of theſe Furies (bearing ſome ſecret ſpight) drawes bloud of the priſoner, by poiſoning the maſter's good intention, ſo that hee croſſing ouer the water, or walking ſcarce to the croſſe in Cheape from the Compter, or

from the Fleete ſo farre as to one of the cookes ſhops in the Lane, there drownes the vow of any promiſe.

Nay, ſuch opinion puts hee in theſe flattering ſpaniels, and inſinuating peſants, that the baſeſt report and palpableſt lye of them ſhall bee ſooner credited then any oath or conteſtation of the worthieſt gentleman, making confrontion againſt them.

Porters in priſons haue in theſe cloſe fights terrible teeth, and are good bloud-hounds, or rather mercileſſe bloud-ſuckers.

Whatſoeuer they whiſper in the master's eare is to him a *Credo.*

Hinc illæ lachrymæ.

This is the gall which ſo many noble ſpirits being forced to drinke downe, doe ſo complaine againſt the cruelty of their keepers, neyther are their tyrannies of one nature, but

their whips haue ſeuerall knots, and euery knot a seuerall ſmarting.

A broker takes forty in the hundred, and is called vnconſcionable diuell for it, but theſe men thinke they may (without danger to their ſoules) wring fifty pounds *per annum* (out of priſoners afflictions and vtterly vndone eſtates,) for one naſty chamber, hung with cobweb-lawne for the greater grace, and haunted with lice and rats for want of better company.

A ſcriuener is reputed mercileſſe in taking the forfeyture of a bond, but theſe men haue with *Judas*, for thirty pence, taken the forfeyture of a priſoner's life, for the want of ſo much money to diſcharge him, ſuffering him to dye in priſon.

A rich farmer is eſteemed moſt inhumane, and no Chriſtian, to take but the houſe or tenement ouer the head of a poore tenant then reſident in it; but these make it nothing to

take diuers lodgings from a common gayle, which belonged for the eaſe and reliefe of diuers poore priſoners, to conuert them to the maiſter's ſide, and the benefit redownding to their owne purſes, which is at the leaſt 100 pound *per annum.*

Againe are all thy actions diſcharged, and is there any hope that thou ſhalt haue any fortunes abroad, or that thou haſt good friends to maintaine thee in priſon, bee ſure then that vpon thy going out thou ſhalt bee put backe, (when all fees are paid) though thy very foote ſtand on the threſhold, if knaues and varlets, clarkes and catch-poles, can, by trotting vp and downe to any man to whom thou oweſt money, finde any ſpringe to catch thee in like a woodcocke.

And albeit thou art as free from any debts, as when thou wert borne, yet rather then faile, actions ſhall bee entred vpon thee in a name thou

knoweſt not, neuer hadſt to deale with, or neuer heardeſt of: Great pitty that the reuerend judges of our land haue not eyes to look through the very heart of ſuch villanies, or are not certified of the miſerable dealing and cruell extortion continually offered to priſoners, to eaſe them, as they are both able, and haue ready hands to puniſh them.

Shall I adde this one thing more, which I doe with a compatible commiſſeration of thoſe, who I know lye groaning vnder it. Is thy creditor's heart ſoftened ſo gently, that hee hath compounded with thee for all the money thou oweſt him, yet comming to take leaue with thy keeper, thou art thruſt back into a worſe priſon then before; a booke of charges lies open before thee, and neither vinteners nor taylors billes are ſo terrible as the *items* of the houſe, nor perhaps ſo vnconſcionable, beſides all vnreaſonablenes to giue threepence in the

pound for execution money, and three halfepence for action, which many times arise to as much as a twelue-months expences.

Offer good men's bonds, offer lands, offer any plate, offer any paune whatsoeuer,

Ibis, redibis nunquam in Bello peribis.

Backe must thou goe, to the place from whence thou art so desirous to come, and in that conflict betweene thy owne wants and thy keeper's cruelty, perish, vnlesse thou payest the vttermost penny; neither the language of intreaties, the promises of friends, the respect of any of the excellent parts in thee, whatsoeuer they bee, nor any other motiue (but money) can preuaile in the wonderfull miracle of thy liberty. *Pecunia omnia potest.*

Of mercilesse Jaylors.

Enough is spoken in the Essay going before, yet too much being too

little, with often inculcation, into eares ſo deafe from being penetrated.

A voyce lowd as thunder had need to roare and to awaken them. One venny more, and if that hit, ſo, if not (but if their hearts are not to bee pierced,) I will lay downe the bucklers, and ſuffer them to take them vp; yet fall back, fall edge, thus trauerſe wee our ground.

I loue to ſee a mother hugge her infant, or a father ſtroake his ſonne on the head, theſe are bonds in nature, ſo ſtrangely and ſtrongly ſealed, that to infringe them violates the very lawes of heauen: but when I ſee man exerciſe wilful tiranny vpon man, it is as if the ſtars ſhould in enuy burne one another to extinguiſh one another's light, and ſo confound that ſpheare in malicious darkenes.

Barbarous cruelty is a Belluine quality; tygers, panthers, beares,

and bandogs, haue it by naturall inclination; it is no ſhame for them, it is in them a baſenes if they degenerate to mildneſſe, and looſe their courages; they haue mouths, jawes, teeth, pawes, and limbs, proportionable to their ſauage diſpoſition.

But man is borne weake, gentle, vnapt to do hurt, vnable to offer violence, and to fall from that goodnes, is to fall with the angells; how much then doe they derogate from their noble creation, who turne the ſharpneſſe of their nailes, which God armes them with for their own beauty and defence, to draw blood vpon the boſomes of Chriſtians made like themſelues? Such are mercileſſe, inexorable jaylors, (I exempt thoſe tender-hearted ones, which I neuer found other,) but moſt certaine ſuch may bee found within a ſmall compaſſe, who vſe and exerciſe all cruelty.

Cruelty becomes them worſt of

all men: a priſoner is a poore weather-beaten bird, who hauing loſt the ſhoare, is driuen by tempeſt to hang vpon the ſailes and tacklings of a priſon: the jaylor is the ſaylor, and if hee beate that bird off to ſinke her in the ſeas, when by climbing vp to the maine top, or perhaps by lifting vp his hand, hee may take it and lend it heat from his warme boſome, it is an argument that his heart is made of the ſame rocks, that lie in wait to deſtroy ſhips in the ocean.

Pitty is a Godlike property, but hardnes of heart, ſelfe-willd tyranny, curriſh dealing, and imperious domineering ouer men dejected, argue baſe, ignoble, cowardly, and diuelliſh diſpoſitions.

It is a *maxime* in the ſchoole of valour, that no coward can bee an honeſt man; what then are flint-breaſted jaylors, who dare not ſtrike but when they ſee men lye fettered at their feet: So dead lions may bee

bitten and torne in pieces by curres, which before durſt not quetch for terror of their pawes; ſo that hee who deſcends to that pouerty of minde, as to fat himſelfe by other men's miſery, can no longer write Man but *Miſanthropos*, Man-hater, or rather *Anthropophagus*, Man-eater.

If remorceleſse keepers of priſons, (for drawing now mine arrow, beare witnes you who giue ayme, that I ſhoot at none) or if marble-hearted jaylors were ſo hapleſse happy as to bee miſtaken, and be made kings, they would inſtead of iron to their grates haue barres made of men's ribbes, Death ſhould ſtand at doore for porter, and the diuell every night come gingling of keyes, and rapping at doors to lock men vp.

The ten-penny and nine-penny ordinaries ſhould neuer bee more in the Fleet, Gatehouſe, or the two infernall compters, for Hunger would lay the cloth, and Famine ſhould

play the leane-fac'd ſeruingman, to take away the trenchers.

Neroe's cruelty in reſpect of theſe would be counted the peaceable raigne of *Auguſtus Cæſar*, the perſecutions of the Romane Emperours vpon the primitiue Chriſtians ſhould be painted tragedies to reall maſſacres, compared to the inhumane blood-thriſty exerciſes which theſe tyrants would put priſoners to, if they durſt doe what they haue minde to doe.

Ob. It may happily bee thought that I am too bitter, and write vntruths out of a malicious pen.

Res. Let the world bee judge: for when I ſee or heare that many noble, braue, and generous ſpirits, borne to great fortunes, well deſcended, of courages not to bee baffled, but by the arme of baſe fortune, and the inreſiſtable violence of lawes fighting againſt them for debts: when, I ſay, I ſee or heare that ſuch gentlemen,

vpon one afternoones going abroad, might free themſelues from bondage, and offer to goe pinyond peraduenture with leaſhes of keepers, and giuing beſides profferd ſecurity of worthy friends, oaths, faiths, honors, and reputations of gentlemen to come back ſafe, when an inflexible jaylor can with a word let them goe, yet ſpitefully ſtops them: oh miſery! what ſhall I ſpeake of this, on whom complaine? Are there no ſuch keepers of priſons in this kingdome, then I doe none wrong.

But I will giue you the picture of one farre worſe, neither will I thereby infer all are faulty by one man's fault, God forbid; but thus I beſtow him vpon you.

There was liuing within leſse then ſeauen yeares paſt, in one of the petty priſons of this land, or not farre from it, a jaylor, who hauing ſome poore men vnder his cuſtody, lying for debts, and wanting all releefe of

friends, dwelling (as charity does ſtill) many miles out of the way, was ſo vnmercifull to them, that they hauing but little money, were glad to buy of him the liuers of bullocks, which hee begged of butchers for a dogge that hee kept, and to pay a halfe penny for a quart of water. But what became of this monſter? hee went one euening in perfect health to bed, at midnight ſtarted vp roaring and rauing, and crying out the chamber was all on fire, and the deuill at his bedſide catching at him, and ſo dyed in deſperation. His wife after his death keeping the ſame jayle, fell ſodainly extreame poore, and his children doe at this houre goe a begging, for *qualis vita finis ita.* Neuer was it heard that any hard hearted jaylor did dye rich, or if hee did, yet curſes followed him to his graue, infamy ſate euer vpon it, his end was wretched, his wealth melted to nothing, his fa-

De male quæsitis non gaudet tertius hæres.

mily hath not proſpered, his wife and poſterity haue beene beggars, and hee that exhaufteth a heape of riches out of the blood of priſoners, hath God's mercie drawne away from him: I write this not to defame the good, but to reclaime the bad.

Of the Miſerable Life in Priſon.

To bee a ſlaue to a Turke is not ſo much, becauſe hee is a Turke, a monſter whoſe teeth are ſharpned of purpoſe, (by diuine ſufferance) to bite and draw blood: A bull's pizle is as proper to his hand, as a turbant to his head.

Cruelty is a genuine quality, but for a Chriſtian to bee ſlaue to a Chriſtian, as a priſoner is to an inſulting jaylor, is as repugnant to nature, as for an elder brother to eat ſcraps from a younger brother's trencher.

The bondage is doubled in the

baſeneſſe of thoſe petty inſolent rake-hells, vnder whom the priſoner with a patience perforce ſuffers. For hee is a ſlaue in the eye of all freedome, fettered in the lap of his mother, (his country,) and what miſery can bee greater then to see ſhore and yet be caſt away?

To a free borne generous ſpirit no jewells are halfe ſo precious as his natiue liberty, gold to that as durt, and albeit with a maſculine courage he indures the braues of peſants when his body is confined, yet the nobility of his mind indures ſuch wounds, as a woman in labor doth her throwes, the ſtroakes of death are eaſie to her paſſions.

Some cannot belieue, that ſo baſe a creature as a bandog dare ſet vpon the lyon, but freſh experience teaches vs the contrary, for that majesticall beaſt was not onely barked at, but bitten in his own lodging (the Tower) not many yeares paſt: So when

thou art hurried through the streets, in thy thundring caroch, all eyes open vpon thee, foot-men running by thee, thy body gliſtring in gold, thy minde swelling with pride, thy bagges full, thy attendants many, all men ſtanding bare before thee at thy bed and board, how wouldſt thou take it in ſcorne, if a wizzard (by the almanack of thy riots, poynting to an il fac'd catchpole, bayliffe, or jaylor, as he paſſeth by that pompe) ſhould prognoſticate and ſay, one of yonder maſtiffes ſhall one day teare thee, when thou shalt not dare to spurne him, wouldeſt thou beleeue this? Wouldeſt thou thinke so poore a ſnake durſt euer ſting thee? But when for heauy debts thou ſhalt bee toſſed from pen to pen, (of pleaders,) into a priſon, when hauing hardly wintered within that garriſon of woe, thy face shall not be thine, but the picture of care and discontentment,

when though thou ſlumbreſt, thy griefe ſhall ſtill lie awake, when thy angells ſhall haue their wings clipt, and thy ſilkes be turned into courſe freeſe, then that dogge whom thou ſcornedſt to haue kept thy gate, ſhall in thy very chamber ſnarle at thee, thy bread by his kneading ſhall bee full of grauell, and thou muſt eat it, thy drinke by his bitterneſſe turned into gall, yet thou muſt drinke it: thou ſhalt bee driuen to thy bed with as much loathing, as a wretch, that is to lye on a hurdle, and not ſuffered to riſe vntill his iron hand plucke thee vp. So pent vp wilt thou be from ayre, that it ſhall almost make thee forget there is a ſunne in Heauen: where is the edge of thy courage now? how poorely is all thy former brauery attired? dares this butcher's curre now faſten vpon the lyon? yes hee ſhall, and therefore,

Thus know him: If thou like not his harſh
note,
He grumbles, barks, and ee'n to bite thy
throat
Has heart (if hee durſt doot) becauſe has
power.
As lyons are lock'd vp within the Tower:
So heere great ſpirits are forc't to abide the
braues,
Baſe checks and ſurly lookes of groomes and
knaues,
Priſoners to jaylors, vſe that wretched trade
Of common fidlers; each one dare vpbraid
And call them baſe, what euer griefe or wrongs
Lye at their hearts, they muſt chant merry
ſongs,
Like birds in cages, and are glad to sing
Sweet tunes to thoſe, who them to thraldome
bring,
Who goe at freedome, at theſe hells may gueſſe,
None know them right, but they whoſe ſoules
they preſſe.

A Locker vp at Nights

Is an *Ignis fatuus*, (or fire drake,) that glides from roome to roome, and frights euery priſoner vpon whom hee ſheds his light, if hee prayes well, hee cannot but bee a good Christian, for hee is ſure to watch.

Hee might be a ſoldier by his walking the round, but that the poore raſcall ſeldome or neuer goes with a *piece about him, his cloathes and hee are of one threed bare wearing, and very hardly get a nap.

* *Two and twenty shillings.*

Sometimes his eares are boxt for the glibnes of his tongue, and though euery night nothing bee giuen him, yet he is ſure to catch cold.

The varlet is a rank begger, yet many coxcombs thinke hee hath much in his keeping, becauſe hee is ſtill locking vp; the belman of the citty and he haue almost offices alike, yet heerein they differ, that the belman hath his dog following him, but this night-walker growes into the habit of a dog by his curriſhnes.

A noble vnderſtanding Priſoner

Is a booke ſo truely printed, that Fortune (with all her miſtakings) cannot find in him any *errata*. He comes to priſon, as a great ſhip in a

ſtorme to ſhoare ſhewing more noble emblems of conſtant ſuffering, then the ſeas could ſticke vpon it of their tirannny.

He beholds jaylors as a valiant ſoldier looks vpon his wounds, which (how dangerous ſoeuer) yet hee ſmiles vpon his ſurgeon, and will indure dreſſing with an vndaunted countenance, becauſe he knowes it is to fetch him off from danger.

No *Jacob's*-ſtaffe can take the height of a ſtarre ſo truely, as his reſolution can both of his owne miſery and his keeper's cruelty: which albeit they moue in one ſpheare, yet their motions are contrary; for the one turnes ſtill to his owne goodnes, and the other to his maiſter's guilt and confuſion.

Hee is the oyle which ſwims on the top of affliction with courage, and cleerenes, that part which is downwards ſhines as brightly as that aboue, and no turbulence can make

it ſinke to the bottome. Of all geometricall figures, a circle is the moſt perfect, and the hardeſt propoſition is to bring it into a ſquare, for ſome ſmall fraction muſt bee ſtill left out: ſo it fares with this man's dimenſions, addition makes him imperfect, and to caſt off any thing leaues him lame. *Ouid's* verſe and hee are one and the ſame, word nor ſillable are too much, nor too little; in breife hee can (with judgement) know when to beat a ſaucy jaylor, and when to haue him fawne and make a ſhillings-worth of legges.

Obſeruations of a Priſon.

1. The deareſt meat in priſon is a tabler's cheeſe, and his firſt welcome.

2. The cheapeſt drinkes are garniſhes, one pottle of that is worth ten which you ſhall pay for in any tauerne about London: but it is far

more pleaſant to drinke his part of ten in a tauerne.

3. Hee that comes freſh into a priſon, if hee flye into the parlor for victualls, is called a Woodcocke, if not thither but at randome, then a Snipe, howſoeuer you terme them, both are ſure to be caught, and to be put all into one cage, the Woodcocke only is now and then a little finelier trimmed vp with green boughes, and reaſon, for the inferiour petty jaylors hold him to be the better meate, and therefore neuer leaue feeding vpon him vntill they haue pickt him to the bare bones.

4. In priſons, gentlemen and burſten cittizens meet as vpon the Exchange, but the newes of both are not alike, for the gentleman ſhall be ſure to heare of nothing but wracks, but the politique cheating bankrupt heares ſtill that his ſhip comes home with rich lading, this is his safeſt landing place.

5. Fat mutton-chops out of the kitchin, make leane commons in a priſoner's chamber.

6. You ſhall ſee ſome in a chamber, who hauing ſcarce cloths to couer them with, yet fingring good ſtore of money, the pottle pot ſhall neuer ceaſe filling vntill the hogshead of their ſiluer bee cleane emptied, albe they waſh their dry mouths a fortnight after with ſmalle beere. Such fellowes are like ſome ſcuruy players, whoſe ambition is to play the greateſt parts, yet performing them ilfauordly are hiſt at for their labour.

7. A naſty ſtinking lodging in a jayle is ſweeter land then any gardenhouſe about *Bun-hill.*

8. A tobacco ſhop and a baudy houſe, are in the ſkirts of the ſuburbs counted inmates, but in a priſon their tenure is all one.

9. A priſon is nothing elſe but a great ale-houſe, for euery chamber

is nothing els but a continuall drinking roome.

10. *Adam* was driuen out of *Eden* for eating of a poore apple, and a priſoner for want of ſixepence ſhall be kept out of the garden: Euery *Cerberus* muſt haue his ſoppe.

11. The porter's lodge is a martin's neſt, a knaue porter's fauour is bought as men ſell deale bords, (by the foot) ſo of him for a ſixepenny bribe thou ſhalt haue an inch of liberty meaſured out by the rule.

12. It is flowing water in a priſon, when there is no roome in the celler for a man to drinke a cup of beere in; ebbing water when *John Batty* ſits nodding for want of company.

13. It is full ſea when three men are forced to lye thruſting in one bed.

14. A ſnorting bedfellow is that great organ pipe, whoſe baſe ſound ſets all the quire a roaring.

15. The eaſieſt commodities to bee taken vp in a priſon are ſmocks, but truſt no man with a ſhirt, no though he be a Knight of *Malta*, *S. Jago*, *Santa Cruz*, or the *Sepulcher*, though he ſteale his band of tenne thouſand *Dam-mees*.

16. Many fine rings are to bee had in a priſon, the mettall of them is right touch, but moſt of the ſtones are counterfeit.

17. The ſunne euery yeare paſſeth through the 12 ſignes of the Zodiacke, and the ſame ſignes ſerue as twelue houſes belonging to a priſon.

1. The ſigne is in *Aries* when a country ram and a citty goat meeting full But in a priſon vpon going to law one goares another.

2. In *Taurus*, when the poore debtor is toſſed vpon the hornes of his aduerſarie's malice, from the country jayle to London, firſt to the King's Bench and then to the Fleet.

3. In *Gemini*, when halfe the priſon are drunke in couples, this is a hot ſigne.

4. In *Cancer*, when a priſoner ſcorning to greaſe the groome porter with oyle of ſiluer, requeſts to come into the Lodge or walke into the rule, but is forced (with a *cancros imitere*) to goe backward.

5. In *Leo*, when there is a mutiny in the houſe, breaking open locks, and battering downe doors.

6. In *Virgo*, when a pretty wench comes to haue her action entred in a cloſe chamber.

7. In *Libra*, when the ſhauing jaylor and ſharking creditor equally fleece the priſoner, and turne him out like a new ſhorne ſheepe.

8. In *Scorpio*, when beds are louſie.

9. In *Sagitarius*, when a tabler eating too deepe into ſcore, is ſhot from full platters, and feeds on two-penny chops and pottage.

10. In *Capricornus*, when a priſoner's wife taking hold on time's forelocke, giues her huſband a bugle hatband.

11. In *Aquarius*, when a priſoner at his firſt coming into priſon, giues ſixpence for an earthen piſſe-pot.

12. In *Piſces*, when he payes eightpence in the kitchin for dreſſing a groat's worth of fiſh.

18. Sure they are no aldermen that ly in priſon, for if you ſee foureſcore of them in one houſe, threeſcore and eighteene of thoſe haue giuen vp their cloaks.

19. *Amſterdam* and a jayle are peopled alike, Religion in both places goes antickely attired, for here whilſt ſome are buſie at a ſermon, others are as buſie at their halfe cans, one man ſits bareheaded to heare ſeruice, and the very next to him with his hat on ſtitching of Bodyes, one man with his ſpectacles on read-

ing the firſt leſſon, another hard by him ſticking on the vpper ſoles of a payre of ſhooes.

20. Priſoners in the King's Bench common jayle, are able to doe good ſeruice both by ſea and land, for ſome haue cabins, but moſt of them keep horſes.

Their beds are called horses.

21. The King's Guard are counted the ſtrongeſt archers, but heere are better ſuitors.

22. A whore entring into a priſon is a hony-pot, about which all the flyes come buzzing, as crowes to a carrion.

23. The leaſe of euery priſon is forfeyted, if euery priſoner goe ſober to bed.

24. Some are of opinion that Engliſh priſons lock vp none but Engliſh men, but I ſay they are all Hungarians.

25. Execution of the law is a ſatisfaction to the law, all men ther-

fore in execution, haue paid their debts.

26. They that being at liberty were euer held to ſpeake truth, are in priſon horrible lyers.

27. Men ſtudy no game at cards ſo much in priſon as Maw.

28. To borrow money is called ſtriking, but the blow can hardly or neuer be recouered.

29. Euery priſoner is a Piece, and no maruell if he breakes, being ſo greatly charged.

30. A jaylor has a diuilish ſtomack, for he eats men.

31. *Stow* your own countryman, and writer of chronicles, cannot be beleeued by many touching the remotion of lands by earthquakes, and yet to confirme him goe but to the King's Bench, and it is a wonder if you find not *Hockley in the Hole* about the houſe, which yee all know was planted farther off; fame is as windy as any of the 4 quarters which

trumpetting his judgement in gouernment abroad hath commended his aſſiſtance to this place; ſoldiers are ſomthing more exorbitant then priſoners, and ſince he knew how to menace them, doubt not but he will quickly learne to manage vs. This is the greateſt vnlikelihood, yet heere it is ratified. What els ye ſhall heare both touching the place, the perſons, and their hangers on, hang me if the tryall make you not ſay report hath beene too ſparing. I wiſh to euery man faith to beleeue all this, but deliuerance from taſting of the leaſt part that others ſuffer.

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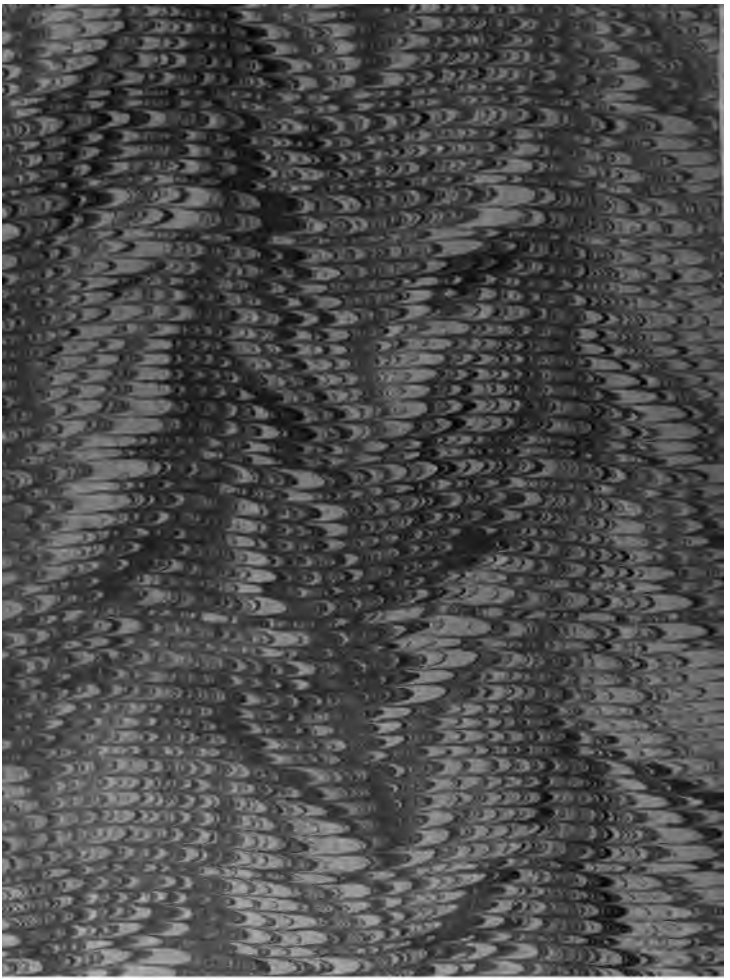
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